



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs



## **Father, son bond over deployed skies**

Senior Airman Marcus Hudson, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, refuels an E-3 Sentry, also known as airborne warning and control system or AWACS, from the 963rd Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, May 21, 2011. Senior Airman Hudson was able to reunite with his father, Maj. Charles Hudson, who was aboard the AWACS during the air refueling mission through the aircrafts communications system. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. William Greer)

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## **Airpower Summary: 12 – 18 Jun 2011**

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – The bond between a father and son, many say, is priceless.

But in an aerial refueling mission, a successful bond between a tanker and receiving aircraft is vital to supporting troops on the ground. For a boom operator deployed here in Southwest Asia, a recent mission stood above his many others when he was able to refuel his father's aircraft in the skies over Afghanistan.

Senior Airman Marcus Hudson, 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron boom operator in a KC-135 Stratotanker, was able to refuel an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System known as AWACS in which his dad flew as the Mission Crew Commander.

"I consider today to be special because I get to refuel my father," Airman Hudson said. "He is out supporting the war efforts at the same time as me, so it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Through the aircraft's communications systems, Maj. Charles Hudson was able to briefly reunite with his son.

"Hearing him on the radio for the first time sent chill bumps down my spine," Major Hudson said. "When I saw him up close, it made it even more real. It was definitely a high mark in a 25-year career."

Airman Hudson said his father was a motivation for him to join the Air Force and he knew his dad was proud that day to work hand-in-hand with him.

And he was right.

"What a proud dad moment," Major Hudson said. "How awesome is it to know a father and son are together making such a difference in so many lives on the ground?"

To read the complete story, visit <http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123259866>

The Combined Forces Air Component Commander's airpower data for the week of 12 – 18 Jun 2011:

Airpower Summary for the week of 12-18 Jun 2011								
Close Air Support	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	TOTAL
Operation Enduring Freedom	89	99	96	93	87	78	76	618
Operation New Dawn	12	16	14	14	12	8	14	90
Weapons Releases								
OEF	6	18	8	10	21	20	16	99
OND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISR								
OEF	93	100	87	97	89	86	86	638
OND	19	19	20	21	21	22	19	141
Combined Data								
Airlift Sorties	171	161	162	163	146	163	168	1,134
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	307	328	334	332	369	339	327	2,336
Airlift Passengers	3,500	3,506	4,135	3,371	3,392	2,864	2,593	23,361
Tanker Sorties	64	65	61	66	60	57	63	436
Fuel Offloaded (Thousands of Pounds)	3,519	3,631	3,465	3,772	3,352	3,229	3,223	24,191
Aircraft Refueled	289	289	284	309	313	210	232	1,926
PR/Medivac Sorties	25	31	24	42	18	25	35	200
Saves	7	8	5	9	4	3	7	43
Assist	8	6	3	15	6	11	7	56

(To see the complete CFACC Airpower Statistics, current as of May 31, 2011 please visit:  
<http://www.afcent.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-110608-001.pdf>)

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